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DR. JOHNSON.

Mr. Cardwell on the Torrens
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In a recent issue of the Hanover-Herald, Hon. W. D. Cardwell, published a communication on the Torrens land registry system, in which are misstatements—unintentionally made, of course—but which should be corrected. In one place he says:

"The proposition as laid before the last General Assembly provided not only for a new system of registering titles to land, but also a new method of transferring title, abolishing the time-honored rule that lands shall pass only by deed or will."

First of all, it is a mistake to say that "under the time-honored rule" to which he refers lands "pass only by deed or will," since it is well known that lands commonly pass by descent, and that title may also be acquired by adverse possession and in other ways. In the next place, no proposition has ever been laid before the General Assembly for the abolition of deeds. The bill for the establishment of the Torrens system made as few changes as possible in the general laws, and never suggested the abandonment of deeds or wills. When one has his land registered he is given a certificate of title, something like a certificate of stock or a registered bond; and when he wants to transfer that land he must present his certificate of title along with a deed to the clerk of the county or city in which the land lies. Thus, there is an additional safeguard afforded by the Torrens system against fraud or forgery in the transfer of titles.

Mr. Cardwell further says:

"The bill as originally drawn provided that every man who owned real estate should have his title established and registered under the new system, whether he wished it or not; but this was changed, and the advocates of the system claim that it was made voluntary."

Mr. Cardwell is entirely mistaken in this statement about the original bill. It never suggested compulsion, and consequently was never changed in that regard. It has always been proposed to let the registration of titles be entirely voluntary, the owners of lands being at full liberty to leave them unregistered as long as they may choose to do so. But Mr. Cardwell argues that even though registration of title may be voluntary, contiguous owners will have to look after their titles when a neighbor registers his property. The same thing is true now whenever a neighbor makes a deed to his land, or whenever he builds a new fence or moves an old one adjoining you. If he occupies a portion of your lands, or if another does so under a deed, you must look out for your lines.

Mr. Cardwell then declares that "perhaps the worst and most radical feature of the bill" was the method originally provided for the service of process for original registration of titles. We are informed that these provisions were taken from the Massachusetts bill, which has stood the test of its courts and been practically sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States, and we do not think we could have been much hurt by following the tried course of Massachusetts. But we are glad to know that this is the worst charge Mr. Cardwell can bring against the bill, for it has been amended in this respect so as fully to remove all objections on this score. We are satisfied that it is a good bill. We believe the people of Virginia want it. And we hope Mr. Cardwell will give it his support in the next General Assembly.

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Bacteriology is an exact science, and analysis by an expert. No mistakes can be made. The signs are plain and unmistakable. Dr. Williams says that tuberculosis, typhoid fever and diphtheria are yearly responsible for from three to four hundred deaths in this city. These diseases are infectious. That is, they are due to bacteria, or germs. The germs exist in large numbers in every case and can be transferred in various ways to other people. Every case owes its origin to the germs which have come from another case. "You can thus readily understand," he adds, "that if prompt and proper precaution is taken to prevent the spread of each case no new cases should develop."

It all comes back to the old saying that an ounce of precaution is worth a pound of cure, and it is a scientific fact that tuberculosis is a preventable disease. To prevent its spread, says Dr. Williams, an early recognition is necessary, and it can be recognized more quickly and more surely by bacteriological methods. This ordinance will put the sciences of the bacteriologist within the reach of all classes of citizens without cost, and we believe it will be an invaluable agency in preserving the public health.

Based Upon a Pun.

A day or two ago our paragraph, in a despondent moment, descended to the infancy of a pun. We use the word infancy advisedly, and with full knowledge of its connotation; for the pun has long known the cold shoulder of a society conventionally enlightened. It is the rubber ring on which the embryo wit cuts its teeth, the first wing-stretchings of a newly awakened desire to be funny. Occasionally the habit outlasts the availing clothes, which is annoying for the public generally. The punster is the drier of the well-springs of humor and the bete noir of drawing rooms. Men flee before him as before the evil one, and they are right. However, here is what the paragraph was misguided into writing:

Let us state fairly that a State fair must be a splendid and state affair in order to be fair to the State.

Then, as one inspired to save his face, he added: "Contributions solicited to above continuous pun." The intent here is obvious. He wished to make a baroque of the whole business, and thus to show that he never took the thing seriously for a minute. It was a pun, it is true, and his pun at that, but no one was to be allowed to dream that he, for his part, thought highly of it. "I made that pun," he says in effect, "but nobody perceives the asininity of it quite so clearly as do I."

But apologies were not in order. The challenge was plain and was promptly accepted. Punsters of the old line heard the rallying-ery and pricked their ears. "Not that we think highly of the pun in general," reasoned they, "for least of all of that pun in particular; but here is plainly a case of putting a presuming dilettante back in his place. One of these was Mr. T. C. M., of Staunton, who launches into the squelching business with the following pertinent carolary:

"If we can get the railroads to make one fare for the State fair, it will induce a large attendance of the fair ones of Virginia at the fair."

There is enough right here—in that pretty conceit regarding the fair one's fare—to make our guilty punsmith hide his diminished head. But worse remains behind. We cannot forbear to pay the tribute of a plaudit to these telling observations of Mr. "Billy Wickers" of this city.

It would be unfair for the statement not to be made that this pun, and its sequel, is fairly good, and deserves to fare well at the hands of paragraphers and also net your estate a fair profit. It is also in order to state that the prospect is fair for fair railroad fare to the State fair for both the fair and unfair, and throughout this fair State, farewell!"

There is little left for us to say. What ever there might have been, Mr. "Wickers" has said it. We salute him as all to the good. If it is possible to reverence a punster, we reverence Mr. "Wickers." He landed on the subject with both feet; threshed around in it till he had kicked it to Smithereens and departed triumphantly with a cheery and punning adieu.

That he neglected to express a hope for fair fare at the hotels was obviously an oversight. We have the best authority for saying that our paragrapher will retire from the punning business. He feels that he is not suited to it. And indeed he has been fully punished. If, like Numan in the Book, we may be permitted a single indulgence in an occupation we know to be wicked, we are willing to hazard the assertion that the most pungent punishment that can be laid upon a somewhat puny pun is to have it punctuated, yet punetically, punctured. But no contributions are solicited to this one.

Compulsory Education in Tennessee.

The State of Tennessee is making an experiment in compulsory education. The last General Assembly enacted a compulsory school attendance law applicable to the counties of Claiborne and Union, and the Knoxville Sentinel says that reports from these counties are that favorable results are already shown, and that more extended interest in educational matters is taken by both parents and pupils. The law in brief, compels the attendance at county schools of all children between the ages of eight and fourteen years, for fourteen weeks during the year, provided there is a sufficiency of public school funds in the county treasury to maintain the schools for that period. The penalty for the parent for failure to send his child to school is a fine, imposed as in a misdemeanor case, and an additional penalty of \$1 fine for every week the child remains out of school.

Wherever a compulsory school attendance law has been put into effect its good effects have been manifest. It has now passed beyond the experimental stage, and the law has been so successful in its operation in these two counties of Tennessee that the Sentinel is calling upon the Legislature to give favorable consideration to a similar law which shall apply to the entire State.

Our Knoxville contemporary makes the

encouraging statement, also, that the educational rallies which have been held throughout the State during the past few months has done much to establish public sentiment in behalf of the educational movement. Similar rallies have been held in Virginia, and another great rally will be held in the city of Lynchburg on November 29th. It is this sort of agitation that arouses the people and crystallizes public sentiment.

It has already been announced in our news columns that Colonel William B. Cameron has been engaged by the Jamestown Exposition Company, beginning on the 20th of this month, to act as envoy soliciting the co-operation in that enterprise of the various States which have not already appointed commissioners, and made appropriations to that end. The work in which General Fitz Lee was engaged at the time of his death.

A better selection for this work could not have been made. Colonel Cameron is a trained lawyer and statesman, and there are few men of more pleasing address. He has the bearing of a cultivated gentleman, and his personality is a sufficient introduction in any company. Having been Governor of Virginia and member of our legislative bodies, he knows how to proceed with the business in hand, and there is no doubt that he will do valuable work for the Jamestown Exposition.

Professor Jim Jeffries, having been bred to a quiet gentleman's sport, asserts that he wouldn't play foot-ball for \$5,000 a month. Then, too, Jim, it is only fair to say that even our best colleges do not pay as high as that.

Secretary Shaw has noticed, with some surprise, that the day set for his stepping down is drawing near without any general consternation among the American people.

The President's message can be prepared with great speed if he will only remember to confer with the enterprising correspondents who have already written it.

One way to save expenses in the government printing office is to turn the Congressional Record into a Literary Digest.

But what will Miss Tarbell do for a living when John D. shall have been gathered to the Rockefeller forefathers?

Pshaw! Bernard and Leslie are drawn together by the common bond of living in a world that doesn't understand them.

Just at present the idea seems prevalent that the only way to reform foot-ball is to kill the player.

What happened on Monday night so to chill the hitherto warm nature of the weather man?

If the Russian press is going to be absolutely free, how will the editor pay his office rent?

No admiring friends of Admiral Togo have yet persuaded him to run for President.

Odell, of course, has the privilege of not seeing it that way.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
November 16th.

1326—Edward II., King of England, taken prisoner and delivered into the hands of his Queen, Isabella, by whom he was imprisoned and finally put to death.

1604—All talk of war between England and Spain ceased, notwithstanding the capture of the treasure frigates, for which no reparation had been made.

1606—Schah Allum, the Great Mogul of Delhi, died, aged eighty-two.

1811—Serious riots in Nottingham, England; the journeymen weavers destroyed the articles of machinery which diminished labor.

1812—The French, under Davoust, left Smolensk, having set fire to it in every quarter and blown up the fortifications; and amidst the immense burning shower they charged forth to join Bonaparte at Moscow.

1843—Great popular movements in Italy. Count Rossi, the prime minister, slain as he entered the Senate chamber at Rome. The Pope's palace besieged.

1855—"The powder in the French siege train at Sevastopol, 100,000 pounds, exploded, killing and wounding a great number."

1864—Three bounty jumpers arrested and convicted of desertion in Chicago and St. Paul, sentenced to be shot at Fort Snelling, Minn.

1868—General Sherman left Fort Hayes for the Canadian River, to assume command against the Indians, who had about 7,000 warriors.

The steamer J. N. McCullough sunk near Madison, Ind.

1870—Franco-Prussian War; the French made an unsuccessful sortie from Bel-fort, by which the garrison lost 200 killed and wounded and fifty-eight prisoners.

The French made a partly successful sortie from Montmedy, the Prussians withdrawing beyond the range of the fortresses, but not raising the siege.

1874—"The government of Saxony forbade the practice of cremation."

1890—Bishop Potter sent a letter to Mayor Van Wyck, of New York, charging police complicity with vice in New York.

1894—Oklahoma swept by a sand storm, which prevailed for four days and did much damage.

1904—Russo-Japanese War; Russian destroyer which arrived at Chosuo with dispatches from Port Arthur blown up by its own officers; mystery in situation at besieged fortress continued; declared stronghold can hold out.

Two Novembers.

Dead gray clouds in a leaden sky, And a sere, drear world on the verge to die, A lone bird calls from the haze-bush, (Possibly a Titmouse, maybe a thrush), And trees stark naked along the dells, Standing, of course, like "grim sentinels."

And the wide, solemn meadow holds its breath, At the leaves lying low in lasting death, And all of the fun has now been had, And whatever's left is pretty sad, Yes, everything existing upon this date Is grim, gray, bleak and desolate, What's all this? What, don't you remember? Why, it is The Magazine Poet's November.

Bright, brisk breeze from the north, northeast, Three hundred knots per hour, at least (Bold-eyed blasts that go it alone), Blowing and chilling the human bone), And snug winter quarters for vagrant cats, And pedestrians madly chasing their hats, And thick, woolly underwear out of trunks, And coats that need continual chunks, And pipes that burst (soon after they freeze), And a cold and a cough and a bad, bad sneeze, And cover that shrinks and exposes the toes, And only a miracle they had not froze, And the mad, mad crouch of the fire's dead ember, And things like these make

The Real November. —H. S. H.

How They Originated.

"Adam," said Mother Eve, "I wish you would put a few cuthorns on my favorite fig tree."

"What, and have all the nice leaves become a mass of holes?"

"Certainly," said she, "to make an open-work shirtwaist!" —Houston Chronicle.

Criticism.

"Now, 'Little Sunshine,' the heroine of the play," said the dramatist, "is the daughter of an ill-reputed father."

"In that case," remarked the coarse manager, "you had better call her 'Little Moonshine.'" —Houston Chronicle.

A Faux Pas.

"Well, how'd your dinner to the British Ambassador come off?" inquired Mrs. Senator Nooritch.

"Oh, my dear," wearily responded Mrs. Senator Struckle, "I can't teach him nothing. He forgot to order 'em and so we didn't have no food to eat and to pass around." —Louisville Courier-Journal.

Foot-Ball at Randolph-Macon.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—To correct certain erroneous impressions which are out as a result of some insignificant correspondents of the Baltimore, Washington, Norfolk and even Richmond papers, I desire to say that the foot-ball team has on the field at the present as strong an organization as the best in foot-ball togs as have appeared upon the campus for several years. These men are not only strong and athletic, but also a few are from the freshman class. The scholarship of the men is equal to that of any who have competed in the foot-ball game. But he it is scholarship required in order to represent the Athletic Association upon the foot-ball team is high is true. The college has a high standard of scholarship, and for clean athletes. We also believe that a man who cannot do good class work cannot put up a good game of foot-ball. So the men who play upon the teams must make a daily class average of 75 per cent, and carry a full course. This rule is not relaxed for the student who is to the credit of the athletic men of Ashland that they have never suffered as a result of its enforcement. This year our team has been selected to play in the opening of the season, failed to make the required average on his first five weeks' work, but before the report was up, he had released from the squad and another man had been trained up to take his place.

The newspaper reports to the effect that our "star player" had been retired by the faculty for low scholarship, are wholly unfounded, and next Saturday when the "Yellow Jacket" meets the men from Williamsburg at Broad Street Park, we hope to convince our friends of the fact that we are not only students, but also players, and that we should work and then play, but work while you play and play when you play.

It is the impression that our faculty is "down on foot-ball," let it be said that our faculty is intensely interested in all phases of college sports and especially in foot-ball. They expect all students to take part and help along athletics in all lines. As a result of the intense interest of the faculty and the earnestness of the students, the foot-ball team has a college spirit unequalled, and a team that is going to show their opponents an interesting time during the next two weeks.

A STUDENT.

Ashland, Va.

Case of the Cadets.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—In your editorial columns this morning you ask the question, "Do State cadets occupy a position of inferior inferiority, or not?" They do not, in their way? THEY DO NOT. In the case under discussion the class released the State cadets because the institute pays their board and the transportation to and from the State and thus put them under obligations. The influence which a cadet exerts upon the ability and character of the man, State cadets pay the (fifty-five for fixed charges, ninety for books, clothes, etc.) pay cadets, \$25; fixed charges, \$10; clothing, \$10; total, \$45. The law enacted early in the history of the institute requires all State cadets to teach two years after graduation. If they fail to do so, they are liable to a fine of \$100. In this connection let me say that the trouble with the third class is that in violation of a regulation the class formed a combination and conspired to get the superintendent to let them out of the board if they so require. The board is always ready to listen to them and grant any request consistent with discipline.

J. N. UPSHUR, Member Board of Visitors, Virginia Military Institute.

State Cadets.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—From your comments about the position of State cadets at the Virginia Military Institute it is evident that you are not familiar with the unjust State laws governing them nor aware of the fact that they have a "hard row to travel." I know of many instances in which State cadets have been treated harshly, while pay cadets, just as guilty or more, were let off with little or no punishment.

The lot of the State cadet at the Virginia Military Institute is a hard one—in many instances—and the law concerning them is unjust as it now stands, working a hardship on poor young men who cannot afford to be pay cadets. This law should be modified or repealed. It does not benefit the State of Virginia in such as one cent's worth. I have no desire to go into a newspaper controversy with anyone on the subject of the management of the Virginia Military Institute, but when the day of investigation comes it is ever done I will be ready to back up what I say with abundant proof.

Yours truly,
"ONE WHO KNOWS."

IT'S SO HARD

to refuse certain articles of food at meal time. You want them, but there's the distress that always follows. Heartburn, Bloating, Headache, Cramps, or Vomiting make you feel miserable. In

HOTSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

you'll find sure relief. It strengthens the digestive organs and thus prevents the ailments, which will develop into Chronic Dyspepsia if not attended to at once. Try a bottle and test it for yourself. All druggists and dealers.

Plant Sweet Peas Now.

They don't come up until spring, but they bloom earlier, better and last longer than when planted in the spring. Our Fall Catalogue tells you how to plant. Our Sweet Peas are the

Finest California Grown Stocks

of beautiful colors and shades. All FLOWER SEEDS AND BULBS for fall planting at

T. W. WOOD & SONS, SEEDSMEN,

12 S. Fourteenth St., Cor. Sixth and Marshall Sts., 1707 East Franklin St.,

Richmond, Va.

NEW FLORIDA FRUITS

JUST RECEIVED.

ORANGES, TANGERINES, GRAPE FRUIT

This is positively one of the finest lots of fruit that we have ever handled. The fruit is large in size, juicy and sweet. They have full measure of the excellent flavor peculiar to Florida fruits, and are full of rich, luscious pulp.

Grape Fruit prices, per dozen, 75c. to \$2.00.

We have also received a shipment of new nuts of extra fine quality.

RARE OLD WINES, BRANDIES AND LIQUORS.

Herman Schmidt, 600 and 501 East Broad Street.

For half century Richmond's leading Grocer and Wine Merchant.

GROVER GUNNING DUCKS AT BACK BAY

J. E. Dickenson, Negro Editor, Denied a New Trial.

IS AFTER THREE THINGS

Maynard Wants Appropriation for Jamestown, Inland Waterway and Public Building.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NORFOLK, VA., Nov. 15.—Former President Grover Cleveland arrived here this morning to shoot ducks in Back Bay, of Princess Anne county. He is the guest of Joe Seelinger, and is accompanied by Dr. Paul Van Dyke, of Princeton University, and Mr. Ernest Gettings, of Baltimore. The party arrived here this morning and left on the regular train by the Norfolk and Southern Railway for the marsh-lands, where the ducks come at this time of the year for the wild celery, which grows in great profusion there. Mr. Cleveland declined to discuss the politics of New York City, but admitted that he is a strong advocate of Mayor McClellan.

NEGRO EDITOR IN JAIL.

J. E. Dickenson, the negro editor of the newspaper issued here in Petersburg, was denied a new trial to-day. He appeared in the Corporation Court to move for a new trial against a verdict of five months in jail and \$100 fine for criminal libel. He was convicted of slandering Josephine Davis, the leader of the choir in St. John's Methodist Church, colored. He has written virulent articles of the mayor of Petersburg, who is superintendent of the Sunday-school; the pastor of the church, and all of the witnesses who testified in the courts in favor of the woman. The supposition is that he has lost mental balance, though the articles of his papers are written correctly, and in excellent style. He has not offered any explanation or retraction, and he seems willing to go to jail and stay there in the effort "to elevate the race."

MAYNARD AFTER THREE THINGS.

Congressman H. L. Maynard says that he will devote his energies to three things in Congress the coming session, and expects to meet with success. He will go after a big Jamestown appropriation, an inland waterway for Norfolk to Hampton, N. C., and a new Federal building for Portsmouth.

Mr. E. Sykes, a lumber inspector, died in Berkeley this morning after an illness of several weeks. The deceased was thirty-one years of age, and was survived by two brothers and one sister—Messrs. James L. and J. W. Sykes and Mrs. J. R. Humphries. He was born at Mount Pleasant, Norfolk county, but had been a resident of Berkeley for twenty-seven years.

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